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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
William F. McDonald et al
Application No. 09/850,324
Filed: May 7, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 044829-0127

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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed April 18, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional applications set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;¹

¹ Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS)) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application was filed on May 7, 2001 and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition.

The reference to the prior-filed applications was not included in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) (i.e., in an ADS or in an amendment to the first sentence following the title of the specification) or filed within the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii).

The instant petition does not comply with item (1)

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.72(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, 8th ed., August 2001), Section 201.11, Reference to First Application. The amendment filed April 18, 2003 fails to state the relationship of Application No. 09/671,784, filed September 27, 2000; and Application No. 09/698,619, filed October 27, 2000, to the instant application.

For the above-noted reason, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) cannot be granted.

In order to expedite consideration, petitioner may wish to submit the substitute amendment and request for reconsideration of this decision by facsimile transmission to the number indicated below and t th attention of Karen Creasy .

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITION
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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703) 305-8859.



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